

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 STR-04 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9945

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1304

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 10109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR

SUBJ: EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 9920

B. TEHRAN 10925

1. ON NOVEMBER 7, WE DISCUSSED FURTHER THE RECENT EC COMMISSION TEAM'S

VISIT TO TEHRAN WITH CASPARI, THE HEAD OF THE TEAM. CASPARI'S IMPRESSIONS WERE ALONG THE LINES REPORTED IN REFTEL B, I.E., AN OUTCOME SOMEWHAT MORE FAVORABLE FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW IN THE IF NOT IN DETAIL THAN THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL A.

2. CASPARI SAID THAT THE IRANIANS SAID IMMEDIATELY THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER ASKING FOR A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE

THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR THE UNITED

STATES. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME THEY DID NOT WISH THEIR GOODS TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY UNDER CONDITIONS LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOODS COMING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. CASPARI SAID THAT THE IRANIANS

FURNISHED HIM A LIST OF PRODUCTS ON WHICH THEY WISHED TO AVOID BEING SURPASSED IN PREFERENCES BY THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. HE WOULD NOT TELL US WHAT WAS ON THE LIST BUT SAID THAT IT DID NOT INCLUDE MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTUREAL PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE OF LITTLE INTEREST TO THE IRANIANS. CASPARI SAID THAT THIS PROBLEM WAS FAR FROM SETTLED BUT HE GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM THE TERMINOLOGY USED BY THE IRANIANS THAT THROUGH A JUDICIOUS USE OF THE GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME AND AN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT BEING DISCUSSED WITH CANADA, THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY TO THE IRANIANS WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. CASPARI SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN THE IRANIANS AND THE COMMISSION, PROBABLY ABOUT THE FIRST OF DECEMBER, BUT THE SITE OF THE MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SETTLED.
MORRIS

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